

## Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00  
PM-05 INR-10 L-03 ACDA-12 NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15  
SP-02 TRSE-00 DODE-00 H-01 /062 R

DRAFTED BY OASD/ISA:TPHDUNLOP  
APPROVED BY EUR:JEGOODBY  
OASD/ISA:DMCGIFFERT  
?UR/RPM:SJLEDOGAR  
L/PM:TBOREK  
-----126589 020121Z /61

O R 020049Z MAY 78  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO USMISSION USNATO IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE  
INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS  
USNMR SHAPE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 111033

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AWACS, NATO, MPOL

SUBJECT: NATO AWACS: MINISTERIAL COMMITMENT AT MAY DPC

1. FOLLOWING IS A MESSAGE FOR ASYG WALSH FROM DASD/ISA  
EUROPEAN AND NATO AFFAIRS SIENA SUGGESTING THAT WALSH  
CIRCULATE FOR NATION'S APPROVAL A PROPOSED MINISTERIAL  
STATEMENT ON NATO AWACS. WE BELIEVE THIS STATEMENT  
REFLECTS MINIMUM COMMITMENT TO THE PROGRAM REQUIRED  
AT MAY DPC TO ENABLE US TO SEEK CONGRESIONAL FUNDING  
FOR THE INTERIM BETWEEN THE DPC AND THE SIGNING OF  
A CONTRACT. WE WOULD APPRECIATE MISSION -- AND WALSH'S --  
COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSED STATEMENT:

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2. BEGIN TEXT: DEAR JOHN:

UNLESS WE ACHIEVE SUFFICIENTLY POSITIVE RESULTS AT THE  
MAY DPC, THE NATO AWACS PROGRAM COULD BEGIN TO INCREASE  
IN COST OR SLIP AWAY FROM US ALTOGETHER. THE US AIR  
FORCE NEEDS SOME FORM OF NATO COMMITMENT BY THIS JULY  
SO THAT THE STANDARDIZED CONFIGURATION DEVELOPMENT MAY

PROCEED ON SCHEDULE. OTHERWISE, THE AIR FORCE IS

COMMITTED TO PROCEED WITH THEIR OWN APPROVED CONFIGURATION DEVELOPMENT, AND THE TWO PROGRAMS WILL DIVERGE. DISRUPTIONS TO THE NATO PROGRAM'S SCHEDULE, PLUS SIGNIFICANT COST INCREASES, WOULD THEN ENSUE.

MOREOVER, PROGRAM FUNDS WILL BE EXHAUSTED IN JUNE. OUR OWN FISCAL YEAR 1978 APPROPRIATION OF \$15.7M IS UNAVAILABLE TO US BY LAW UNTIL AT LEAST ONE OTHER NATO MEMBER "ENTERS INTO A CONTRACT TO PURCHASE THE AWACS AIRCRAFT." IT SEEMS QUITE UNLIKELY THAT WE WILL OBTAIN IN MAY AN ALLIANCE AGREEMENT SPECIFIC ENOUGH TO CONSTITUTE A CONTRACT WHICH WILL ENABLE US TO REACH THAT MONEY. HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE A STRONG MINISTERIAL COMMITMENT WOULD GIVE US AMMUNITION WITH WHICH TO SEEK LEGISLATION UNFENCING THE \$15.7M, OR A PORTION OF IT SUFFICIENT TO KEEP THE PROGRAM GOING, PRIOR TO CONCLUSION OF THE CONTRACT.

I SUGGEST THEREFORE THAT YOU SPONSOR AND CIRCULATE TO NATIONS THE FOLLOWING TEXT FOR POSSIBLE SIGNATURE IN MAY WHICH WOULD REPRESENT COMMITMENT TO THE PROGRAM IN GENERAL AND TO THE 1978 PHASE IN PARTICULAR.

QUOTE: WE, THE UNDERSIGNED MINISTERS AND REPRESENTATIVES, CONFIDENTIAL

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HAVE DECIDED HEREBY TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT FOR THE PURCHASE BY NATO IN COMMON OF A NATO VARIANT OF THE E-3A AWACS AIRCRAFT FOR THE NATO AIRBORNE EARLY WARNING AND CONTROL PROGRAM IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ALLIANCE PROGRAM PLAN (PO/78/18), SUBJECT TO THE LEGAL AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS. FYI: (I LEAVE TO YOUR JUDGMENT WHETHER THE FOLLOWING FALLBACK SHOULD BE CIRCULATED AS PART OF THE DRAFT STATEMENT.) WE COULD MAKE THIS MORE GENERAL, SUCH AS "SUBJECT TO NECESSARY NATIONAL APPROVALS", IF THAT IS POLITICALLY REQUIRED. END FYI.

THE CNAD'S HIGH-LEVEL GROUP AND THE NATO AEW PROGRAM OFFICE ARE AUTHORIZED TO CONTINUE INITIAL DEVELOPMENT AND OTHER PREPARATORY ACTIVITIES AND TO CONCLUDE NECESSARY CONTRACTUAL FORMALITIES. CONTRACT SHOULD SPECIFY APPROPRIATE MILESTONES FOR ALLIANCE PROGRAM REVIEW.

FUNDING SUFFICIENT TO MAINTAIN ESSENTIAL ACTIVITIES THROUGH DECEMBER 1978, PENDING CONSUMMATION OF ACCEPTABLE CONTRACT, IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED UP TO \$37.3 (FY 1977) MILLION BASED ON CONTRIBUTIONS BY NATIONS OF SCHEDULED FUNDS FOR 1978 AS OUTLINED IN PO/78/18, AS SOON AS

NATIONAL FUNDING PROCESSES PERMIT. END QUOTE. SINCERELY,  
JAMES V. SIENA. END TEXT OF LETTER TO WALSH.

3. WITH THE MAY DPC THREE WEEKS AWAY, CLEARLY TIME  
IS OF THE ESSENCE IF NATIONS ARE TO BE READY TO SUPPORT  
A POSITIVE COURSE OF ACTION. IN DISCUSSIONS WITH  
NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES, MISSION MAY WISH TO MAKE  
THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. A FIRST SENTENCE ADHERING TO THE FULL SPIRIT OF  
THE PROPOSED STATEMENT IS ESSENTIAL TO PROVIDE US THE  
BASIS TO APPROACH THE CONGRESS TO UNFENCE FUNDS. WE  
NEED TO BE IN A POSITION TO ASSURE CONGRESS THAT  
WE HAVE A COMMITMENT FROM MINISTERS TO TRY TO GET THE  
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MONEY, AND WHEN THEIR PROCESSES PERMIT, TO CLOSE THE  
DEAL.

B. AGREEING TO THE ABOVE TEXT STILL LEAVES OPEN DETAILS  
OF FOLLOW-ON PROGRAM DOCUMENTS SUCH AS MEMORANDUM OF  
UNDERSTANDING, PROCUREMENT DOCUMENT, AND PROGRAM  
REVIEWS, BUT AUTHORIZES THE PROGRAM TO PROCEED ON  
SCHEDULE UNTIL THE END OF 1978.

C. NO DEADLINE IS HEREBY INCURRED FOR SIGNING THE  
MMOU AND PROCUREMENT DOCUMENT. HOWEVER, BOTH ARE  
REQUIRED PRIOR TO SIGNING THE PROCUREMENT CONTRACT (S)  
BY OCTOBER 1, 1978.

D. IF SUCH A STEP IS NOT TAKEN, A FUNDING AND ACTIVITIES  
GAP WILL OPEN SUCH THAT THE CURRENTLY DEFINED PROGRAM  
MAY BECOME UNATTAINABLE.

E. AN ALTERNATIVE TO ACTION AT THE DPC WHICH WILL ARM  
US FOR APPROACHING CONGRESS IS TO SEEK ALLIED FUNDING  
FOR THE INTERIM WHILE WE ARE WORKING TOWARDS SIGNING A  
CONTRACT. WOULD APPRECIATE VIEWS ON THE FEASIBILITY  
OF THIS.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** AWACS, TEXT, MINISTERIAL MEETINGS, WARNING SYSTEMS, MILITARY COMMUNICATIONS, FOREIGN COMMITMENTS, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 02 may 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978STATE111033  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** TPHDUNLOP  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780186-0117  
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**Line Count:** 161  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
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**Message ID:** c42ed593-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ORIGIN EUR  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
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**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2517086  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** NATO AWACS: MINISTERIAL COMMITMENT AT MAY DPC  
**TAGS:** MPOL, NATO  
**To:** USNATO BONN  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/c42ed593-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014